SOUTH AFRICAN RADIO LEAGUE SARL NEWS

SUNDAY 1999 JULY 18

This is Amateur Radio Station ZS6SRL transmitting Amateur Radio News , a service from the South African Radio League for the interest of all Radio Amateurs, Short-wave Listeners and Electronic Enthusiasts. For a complete list of broadcast times and frequencies please send a SASE to Amateur Radio News, SARL, P O Box 1721 Strubensvallei 1735. This bulletin is also available on the SARL's web pages hosted by Intekom at< NEWS HEADLINES:

- MAIL COMPANY DEFRAUDS THE SARL
- YOUR FINANCIAL CONTRIBUTION MAY SAVE A RADIO AMATEUR'S LIFE
- ARISS EQUIPMENT TAKES ANOTHER STEP TOWARDS PERMANENT AMATEUR RADIO PRESENCE IN SPACE

You are tuned to ZS6SRL, the news in detail next

ARISS EQUIPMENT TAKES ANOTHER STEP TOWARD ISS

The equipment that will become the first Amateur Radio station on the International Space Station has completed a significant milestone in anticipation of its journey into space later this year. Following exhaustive qualification testing at NASA's Goddard Space Flight Center, the radios, TNC, power supplies, and connecting harnesses for the initial transportable ARISS ham station are on their way to Kennedy Space Centre for launch this December during shuttle mission STS-101.

"The first set of flight hardware for Amateur Radio on the International Space Station (ARISS) project has passed all its tests and is on its way to Kennedy Space Centre," said Will Marchant, KC6ROL. Marchant credited "a tremendous amount of work by Frank Bauer, KA3HDO, and his team of volunteers at Goddard Space Flight Centre" for getting the qualification testing done. Marchant said the hardware was shipped to Kennedy Space Centre July 9.

The initial ham gear–primarily Ericsson commercial-grade handheld transceivers–will support amateur operation from the ISS on voice and AFSK packet on 2 metres and 70 cm. The equipment package includes one 6 W VHF and one 4 W UHF transceiver plus an interconnecting box to distribute audio and power and a 1200-baud packet TNC. Marchant said the gear will provide the ISS with Amateur Radio capability similar to the voice and packet currently available to cosmonauts aboard the Russian Mir space station.

More sophisticated transportable ham gear will be delivered in late 2000 or early 2001. A rack-mounted permanent station is expected to be launched in 2003 or 2004. An externally mounted "microsatellite-like" station will launch in that time frame as well, Marchant said.

The ARISS external antennas will be mounted on the outside of the ISS Service module during a space walk scheduled for STS-101. Ultimately, four external antennas will be flown to support amateur communication on HF, VHF, UHF, L band (including GPS receive) and S band.

MAIL COMPANY DEFRAUDS SARL

A mail company employed to handle all bulk mail and parcels has defrauded the South African Radio League. When after several weeks members had not received the annual subscription account the office staff attempted to contact the mailing house for an explanation. When the company did not respond to telephone calls, an investigation was launched and a formal charge has been laid. It appears that book orders despatched after the beginning of June may also have been affected. The SARL mailed duplicate membership account with Radio ZS on Friday and is following up book orders to check on receipt. Members are requested to look for their account in Radio ZS and to remit their fees as soon as possible. The recently announced competition is printed on the back of the account.

The SARL regrets any inconvenience

RADIO AMATEUR NEEDS YOUR SUPPORT IN HIS QUEST FOR LIVING

Paul Hudson, a member of the Highway Amateur Radio Club has been flown to Grootte Schuur Hospital in Cape Town awaiting a liver transplant. He has undergone an operation in an effort to stabilise him. In his early thirties Paul is an epileptic and was born with Haemoplegia (Paralysis). Paul having only been working at the Durban Fire Department for about 2 years is facing being boarded due to ill health, without pension or medical benefits. The Highway Amateur Radio Club has launched a fund raising campaign to assist Paul with his medical expenses. Your contribution will to help Paul in his quest for life is vital. Please deposit contributions directly into the NBS bank account.

Name of Account: PAUL HUDSON MEDICAL SAVINGS CLUB Branch: WESTVILLE Savings account Number: 9516336355

For electronic transfers the branch code is 72 00 26

Get well messages my be sent to SARL@INTEKOM.CO.ZA. Please mark the subject line Paul. These messages will be forwarded to him in Hospital..

AMRAD CONTINUES LF EXPERIMENTS

Slow-speed beacon transmissions from the Washington, DC, area on 136.75 kHz under the call sign WA2XTF have been on the air continuously since May. in Vienna, Virginia. The activity is being conducted under the Part 5 Experimental License issued to the Amateur Radio Research and Development Corporation to test the waters on 136 kHz. So far, reception reports have been received from amateurs near Washington, DC.

In March, the FCC granted a one-year experimental license to AMRAD to

conduct tests using WA2XTF on 136.75 kHz from twelve sites in Northern Virginia. These experiments are to gain experience in anticipation that the FCC may allocate the low-frequency band 135.7-137.8 kHz to the Amateur Radio Service in the US. Several other countries already have an LF allocation at 136 kHz.

BIG SWITCH ON FOR INTECNET2000

It was a big switch for last week's INTECNET2000. After the 90 minute discussion on APRS with Bob Bruninga over 200 radio amateurs reported in. It is estimated that many more listened and did not wait for the call-in queues

APRS is the acronym for Automatic Packet Reporting System, an integration of software and hardware that has become the latest application to take the packet radio world by storm.

To support the interest in APRS the SARL bookshop has two exciting new books available: "Packet: Speed and more speed", a book full of applications including APRS and "Getting on track with APRS". The cost of each book is R185 retail. The member price is R125. The cost for packaging and postage is R15.

Order yours while stocks last. Orders may be placed by calling the order hotline on 088 120 5042

The next on the air discussion is the SARL ON THE AIR INDABA on 25 July when the National Development Project will be discussed. Clubs wishing to link up are requested to send their details to sarlnews@intekom.co.za of by fax to 031 765-6456.

160 METRE AWARD FROM SARL

The SARL sponsors a Top Band to encourage more 160 m QSO's with Southern African countries

South African stations must submit proof of having contacted at least six different Southern African call areas, of which at least five must be in the Republic of South Africa. The sixth contact can be from the remaining South African call area (ZS), or from any of the bordering countries (Botswana, Lesotho, Mozambique, Namibia, Swaziland or Zimbabwe).

DX stations within 1000 km of the borders of South Africa need contact only three call areas in the RSA. DX stations beyond 1000 km of the borders of the RSA need to contact only two call areas in Southern Africa, one of which must be in the RSA. All contacts after 1 January 1960 are valid for this award.

Contacts must be established in the range of 1800 to 2000 kHz. ZS amateurs can transmit between 1810 and 1850 kHz. Endorsements for single modes can be requested.

South African applicants should send QSL cards, a list of contact details and a handling and postage charge of R 10,00. This award is free to members of the

South African Radio League.

Foreign applicants should submit a list of QSL cards, certified by an official of a local radio club or two licensed radio amateurs that have seen the cards. A handling and postage charge of US$ 10,00 or 10 IRCs must also be included.

Applications should be addressed to: The Awards Manager, South African Radio League PO Box 1721 Strubensvallei 1735 South Africa. Email enquiries can be directed to tjerk@iafrica.com

SOLAR FLUX LEVELS MAY HIT 200 THIS WEEK

For the period 16 to 22 July solar activity will be low to moderate with flux levels in the 150's increasing towards 200. Isolated M-class flares may occur at any time during this period. Geo-magnetic conditions will remain quiet to unsettled. Conditions should be good to very good.

Last week solar activity was low with the flux in the 150's. The A-index was between 2 and 5. Geo-magnetic conditions were quiet to unsettled. This resulted in generally good conditions.

DIARY OF ACTIVITY

The Annual General Meeting of the Cape Town Amateur Radio Centre will take place at 20.00 on Monday 26 July at the Round Table Community Centre, Chess Road, Rondebosch.

On July 31 the Welkom Amateur Radio Club will be holding their AGM at 1st Dagbreek Padvinder hall on the corner of van Arrart Road and the old Welkom no. 3 Shaft road at 14:00 for 15:00 followed by a bring and braai. talk-in on 145,750.

On the 12th of August ,Hans Potgieter ZS6ALJ, president of the SARL, will join and address the Pretoria Amateur Radio Club on the occasion of their 70th AGM. We are all aware that this is not actually the 70th AGM of the PARC but in reality they only had a name change and are still the same organisation with a long and proud history.

> From 13 to 14 August 1999 the East Rand Amateur Radio Club will be hosting a special event station on HF and VHF at the John Vorster Stadium in Nigel. On August 14 there will be a boot sale from 10:00 - 12:00. There is no charge for the bootsale, but visitors will have to pay entrance into the stadium.

Radio Clubs are invited to supply information for inclusion in the Diary of events. Information must reach the SARL News Service by not later than two weeks before the event. Information may be faxed to 031 765-6456 or by Email to: sarlnews@intekom.co.za.

The South African Radio League provides this bulletin of news as a service to Radio Amateurs and interested listeners on the African Continent. Join us on

Sundays at 12:00 for the President's Net on 7082 kHz. This bulletin was written by ZS5AKV and read by ..

News in this bulletin was provided by the SARL News Service, Amateur Radio Clubs in South Africa, Amateur Radio Online and the ARRL .

Every Sunday you are invited to listen to Amateur Radio Mirror International. The programme is on the air on Sundays at 10:00 SAST on 9750 and 21530 kHz and repeated on Mondays at 20:00 SAST on 3215 kHz. Sentech, the common carrier for broadcasting signals in South Africa and Telkom who provides the transmission lines, sponsor these transmissions. The following VHF frequencies are also activated from the Sentech Meyerton Transmitter site: 145,375 for the Northern Free State and Vaal triangle areas and 145,400 covering the greater Johannesburg area. In the greater Durban area there is a relay on 145,650 MHz.

ends - ZS5AKV.